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# Facts about Farm Crops

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## Quik-Quiz



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## HOW TO USE THE BOOKLET

This booklet is adapted from a computerized quiz at the U.S. Department of Agriculture exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Illinois.

You can use the booklet to discover a series of interesting items about food and farms.

You will find 20 multiple choice questions in this subject matter category. There are four A-B-C-D answers to each question. One answer is correct. However, you will find some interesting comments about each of the A-B-C-D answers. The correct answer to each question is given in a key at the end of the booklet.

You can quiz and score yourself on what you already know, simply by answering the multiple choice questions *before* you read any of the comments which follow the questions. Or you can score yourself on how well you can pick the correct answers *after* reading the comments.

## HOW TO SCORE YOURSELF

After each question you will see a line that says:  
Rank your choice:                    

You can do that by putting the most likely of the A-B-C-D answers first, and the least likely last. Then rate the middle two. Your answers to a question might look like this:   C     A     B     D  .

You can then score yourself easily. Check your answers with the key at the back. Let's say that "C" is the correct answer. Just look under the "C" in your answer and circle the 5 like this:

C	A	B	D
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
(5)	3	1	0

Now suppose the correct answer is "B". Look under your "B" answer and circle the 1 like this:

C	A	B	D
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
5	3	(1)	0

There is only one correct answer to each question. The three remaining answers are all wrong. Your score is based on how close you come to putting the correct answer first.

Now, go ahead and select your answers, and have some fun. Read the comments that accompany each possible answer, and you'll discover many interesting facts about food and farming.



1. THE STATE WHICH HARVESTS THE MOST CORN ACREAGE IS:

- A. Indiana
- B. Iowa
- C. Kansas
- D. Hawaii

Rank your choices:                                          
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

A. INDIANA

Indiana farmers harvested about one-twelfth of the U.S. acres planted to corn last year.

B. IOWA

Iowa farmers harvested around 13 million acres of corn last year.

C. KANSAS

Kansas and North Dakota farmers harvest more wheat acres than farmers in other states.

D. HAWAII

Hawaii is one of only a handful of states where not enough corn is grown to be significant.

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2. WHICH CROP IS CALLED AMERICA'S  
MIRACLE CROP?

- A. Wheat
- B. Soybeans
- C. Corn
- D. Buckwheat

Rank your choices:                                          
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

A. WHEAT

Wheat, grown on more acres in the world than any other crop, is undoubtedly the staff of life. However, more people eat rice.

B. SOYBEANS

Fifty years ago soybeans were often cut for hay or plowed under to improve the soil's nitrogen content. Now we have found so many uses for soybeans, annual production is worth \$8 billion—compared with a value of \$8.2 million in 1932.

C. CORN

Thanks to hybrid corn and the use of more fertilizer, U.S. corn crop yields jumped from 22 bushels per acre in the thirties to about 90 bushels now.

D. BUCKWHEAT

Buckwheat is important to those who love buckwheat pancakes, but the government no longer keeps track of its production. Buckwheat was once an important animal feed.

3. ONE THING CORN IS NOT USED FOR IS:

- A. Fireworks
- B. Cheese Spreads
- C. Potato Chips
- D. Saffron Powder

Rank your choices:                                  
                                 1st   2nd   3rd   4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

A. FIREWORKS

Corn starch is used in pie fillings, crayons, surgical dressings, rubber tires, fireworks and a host of other consumer products. Though 90 percent of U.S. corn is used to feed animals, the other 10 percent has many uses.

B. CHEESE SPREADS

Corn syrup is used in catsup, canned fruits, marshmallows, minced meat, cheese spreads and a host of other foods. Industrially it is used in explosives, metal plating, shoe polish and in many other ways.

C. POTATO CHIPS

Corn oil is used in making margarine, mayonnaise, salad dressing, potato chips and many other foods and in cooking.

D. SAFFRON POWDER

Saffron is a deep orange powder made from the stigmas of flowers. It is used in making dyes, grits, whiskey, beer and countless other industrial and consumer products.

4. IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT ISN'T GROWN COMMERCIALY SOMEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES, IT IS:

- A. Coffee
- B. Rubber
- C. Flax
- D. Pineapples

Rank your choices:                                          
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

#### A. COFFEE

Nearly 2 million pounds of coffee were harvested from 2,000 acres in Hawaii in 1975.

#### B. RUBBER

The production of rubber substitutes is fairly common in parts of the United States.

#### C. FLAX

Flax is the raw material for linseed oil, cake and meal in the U.S. It is grown for linen in other countries. We grow flax in Minnesota, Montana, the Dakotas and Texas.

#### D. PINEAPPLES

Though the production of pineapples is shifting to Mexico and the Far East, Hawaii is still producing plenty of pineapples.



5. U.S. FARMERS GROW MUCH MORE OF ONE COMMERCIAL FRUIT THAN ANY OTHER. IT IS:

- A. Watermelons
- B. Apples
- C. Grapes
- D. Oranges

Rank your choices:                                  
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

#### A. WATERMELONS

Farmers grow nearly as many pounds of watermelons in the U.S. as do they peaches—more than a million tons of each per year.

#### B. APPLES

We pick around 3 million tons of apples a year. Washington state farmers produce more apples than farmers in any other state.

#### C. GRAPES

Surprisingly, perhaps, grape production reached 4.3 million tons in 1975. Most grapes are crushed for juice and wine.

#### D. ORANGES

U.S. growers produce around 11 million tons of oranges annually. Most oranges are processed into juice, concentrates and other citrus products.

6. U.S. FARMERS GROW MUCH MORE OF ONE VEGETABLE THAN ANY OTHER. IT IS:

- A. Tomatoes
- B. Potatoes
- C. Spinach
- D. Peas

Rank your choices:                                              
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:     5       3       1       0

#### A. TOMATOES

U.S. farmers grow nearly 8 million tons of tomatoes per year. That's an average of about 70 pounds of tomatoes a year for each of us.

#### B. POTATOES

U.S. farmers produce nearly 18 million tons of potatoes. You can figure out how many pounds apiece that represents.

#### C. SPINACH

Spinach production, at nearly 200,000 tons, means that Americans eat an average of about 2 pounds of spinach a year. Do you?

#### D. PEAS

Peas are very popular. U.S. farmers produce nearly half a million tons of green peas a year. By comparison, farmers raise more than 2 million tons of sweet corn.

7. THE CULTIVATED CROP USING THE MOST ACREAGE IN THE UNITED STATES IS:

- A. Corn
- B. Wheat
- C. Vegetables
- D. Soybeans

Rank your choices:                                              
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:     5       3       1       0

A. CORN

Corn is grown on about 80 million acres of cropland. There are about 500 million acres of commercial timber—but timber is not a cultivated crop.

B. WHEAT

Wheat is often grown on about 70 million acres. Farmers get an average of about 30 bushels of wheat per acre. The wheat crop is often about 2 billion bushels.

C. VEGETABLES

Vegetables are grown on about 3½ million acres of land. A little more than half the vegetables are grown for processing, the rest for fresh vegetables. But this acreage is small potatoes compared with some other crops.

D. SOYBEANS

Soybeans are a big crop in the U.S., with around 55 million acres. Back in the thirties, only 3 to 6 million acres were planted to soybeans.

8. WHICH ONE OF THESE CROPS DOES NOT PROVIDE US WITH A SWEETENER:

- A. Corn
- B. Cotton
- C. Clover
- D. Wheat

Rank your choices:                                          
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

#### A. CORN

Dextrose and syrups are among the major byproducts of corn. Ninety percent of our corn production, though, is fed to animals.

#### B. COTTON

A lot of uses have been found for cotton, including cottonseed oil, but sugar isn't yet among them. Yet the blossoms of cotton are a prominent source of honey.

#### C. CLOVER

Bees collect nectar from clover blossoms and nectar becomes honey. Another use for clover is to feed cows. Still another: to take nitrogen from the air and put it in the soil.

#### D. WHEAT

Wheat is not a commercial source of sweetener in the U.S. Yet when U.S. farmers produce a lot of wheat and get a good price, the totals comes to a sweet amount of money.



9. MOST OF THE FARM LAND IN HAWAII GROWS:

- A. Pineapples
- B. Potatoes
- C. Sugarcane
- D. Flowers

Rank your choices:                                          
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

#### A. PINEAPPLES

Hawaii turns out about 700,000 tons of pineapples yearly. When people think of Hawaii, and the crop it is most famous for, they often think of pineapples.

#### B. POTATOES

Hawaii grows potatoes, but the climate and soil are better for other crops. Lava thrown up by volcanoes tens of millions of years ago formed the Hawaiian islands.

#### C. SUGARCANE

Sugarcane is plentiful in Hawaii. The No. 1 crop in Hawaii is No. 1 by such a margin that the No. 2 crop is far behind.

#### D. FLOWERS

Flower growing is a big industry in Hawaii. The state is noted for its orchids and anthuriums.

10. THE MAIN CROP WHICH IS  
HARVESTED IN ALASKA IS:

- A. Soybeans
- B. Potatoes
- C. Hay
- D. Taro

Rank your choices:                                          
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

#### A. SOYBEANS

Although wheat has been grown to a limited extent in Alaska, warm weather crops just haven't made it very well.

#### B. POTATOES

Potatoes are Alaska's most important vegetable. But other crops take more acreage.

#### C. HAY

Hay accounts for about a fourth of the total value of agricultural production in Alaska.

#### D. TARO

U.S. production of Taro, an edible root, takes place only in Hawaii.

11. THE "GREEN REVOLUTION" DEALS  
PRIMARILY WITH:

- A. Algae
- B. Rice and Wheat
- C. Harvesting Apples Early
- D. Corn Silage

Rank your choices:                                          
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

A. ALGAE

Microscopic algae are green organisms low in the food chain of aquatic life. Adding fertilizer to a pond increases the amount of algae, which results in a higher production of fish in the pond.

B. RICE AND WHEAT

The development of highly productive cereals such as rice and wheat for underdeveloped countries of the world has helped to alleviate hunger in the world.

C. HARVESTING APPLES EARLY

Most apples are harvested when they are mature. Some are green. If you eat an immature red apple that is still green, your stomach may revolt. You might even get green at the gills.

D. CORN SILAGE

Silage makes a tasty meal for cattle. It is made from chopped green stalks and ears of field corn that are stored in a silo. Some may think it revolutionary that some silage is stored underground.

12. MOST NUTS ARE GROWN ABOVE GROUND, BUT NOT—

- A. Pecans
- B. Walnuts
- C. Peanuts
- D. Macadamia

Rank your choices:                                  
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

### A. PECANS

Pecans are grown in the South. Georgia farmers produce about 80 percent of the U.S. output.

### B. WALNUTS

You might say that walnuts are western. California and Oregon turn out more than \$60 million worth of walnuts per year.

### C. PEANUTS

Flowers form on the peanut plant. When the flowers are pollinated, a “peg” develops and enters the soil where pods develop into peanuts.

### D. MACADAMIA

About \$5 million worth of macadamia nuts are grown in Hawaii. The trees stay green the year around.



13. WHICH REGION IN THE UNITED STATES HARVESTS THE MOST TIMBER?

- A. North
- B. South
- C. Rocky Mountains
- D. Pacific Coast

Rank your choices:                                  
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

A. NORTH

Northern states produced nearly 2 million cubic feet of timber in 1970, about one sixth of total U.S. production. A third of the nation's total land area—including Alaska—is in forests.

B. SOUTH

The South produces 45 percent of the timber production in the United States—about 5½ million cubic feet a year.

C. ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Rocky Mountain states produced 863,000 cubic feet of timber in 1970, not quite one twelfth of total U.S. production. A quarter of the nation's timberland is on farms. Timber is also grown on national forests.

D. PACIFIC COAST

Pacific Coast states produce around 4 million cubic feet of timber per year. More than 70 percent of the commercial woodland in the U.S. is privately owned.

14. HOW MUCH DID FARMERS GET FOR THE COTTON THAT WENT INTO A PAIR OF \$8.04 BLUE JEANS IN 1974?

- A. 52 cents
- B. 67½ cents
- C. \$2.42
- D. \$3.37

Rank your choices:                                  
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

**A. 52 CENTS**

Cotton farmers got about 6.4 percent of the money paid for a pair of cotton denim dungarees retailing for \$8.04.

**B. 67½ CENTS**

The cotton in a \$8.04 pair of dungarees was worth 67½ cents as it entered the textile mill. That's not what farmers got, though.

**C. \$2.42**

The blue jeans manufacturer, not the farmer, received about \$2.42 as his share of the \$8.04 paid for a pair of blue jeans in 1974.

**D. \$3.37**

Those involved in the wholesaling and retailing of the \$8.04 pair of blue jeans in 1974 received about \$3.37 as their share.

15. ONE CROP THAT DOES NOT PROVIDE OIL FOR COMMERCIAL AND HOME USE IN THE U.S. IS:

- A. Wheat
- B. Corn
- C. Cotton
- D. Soybeans

Rank your choices:                                        
                                 1st   2nd   3rd   4th

Circle your score:       5       3       1       0

#### A. WHEAT

Wheat produces flour and cereals. It also supplies some starch, though we get 98 percent of our starch from corn.

#### B. CORN

Corn oil is very popular in U.S. kitchens. But corn provides more than oil. About 2,400 of the products in a supermarket contain some product of corn, such as oil, syrups and starch.

#### C. COTTON

Cotton seeds help provide us with shortening, margarine, cooking oils and animal feeds. We produce about a billion pounds of cottonseed oil a year. It was the first vegetable oil to be used in the U.S.

#### D. SOYBEANS

A third of our soybean production goes into salad and cooking oils. We produce about 9 billion pounds of it a year, and ship about 1.5 billion pounds of it overseas.

16. WHICH OF THESE STATES DOES NOT GROW TOBACCO COMMERCIALY?

- A. Connecticut
- B. Maryland
- C. Michigan
- D. Massachusetts

Rank your choices:                                  
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

A. CONNECTICUT

Connecticut farmers grew more than 7 million pounds of tobacco in 1976. That's a small part of national production, but the Connecticut leaves are just right for cigar wrappings.

B. MARYLAND

Maryland farmers produced 14,000 tons of their special kind of tobacco in 1976. It's used in cigarettes.

C. MICHIGAN

Tobacco is grown commercially in 18 states in the United States. It surprises some people that tobacco is grown in northern states.

D. MASSACHUSETTS

Despite the northern climate, farmers in Massachusetts grew 2 million pounds of tobacco in 1976. Wisconsin farmers, also in a northern climate, grew 9 times as much.



17. MORE THAN HALF THE VEGETABLES GROWN FOR CANNING, FREEZING AND OTHER PROCESSING ARE GROWN IN JUST ONE STATE:
- A. California
  - B. Texas
  - C. Illinois
  - D. Wisconsin

Rank your choices:                                            
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:      5      3      1      0

A. CALIFORNIA

There are about 12 million tons of vegetables grown for processing in the U.S. each year. California produces more of these vegetables than are grown in Wisconsin.

B. TEXAS

Texas has twice as many cattle as any other state. It is also big in cotton and sheep. Some of our first fresh vegetables of the year come from southern Texas.

C. ILLINOIS

Illinois farmers grew more soybeans than farmers in any other state; they also rank high in corn production. A large amount of vegetables are grown in the farming area around Chicago.

D. WISCONSIN

Wisconsin ranks high in growing vegetables for processing. Wisconsin produces about one eleventh of the total U.S. production of about 12 million tons.

18. WITH LUCK A FARMER WILL GET ENOUGH CASH FROM ONE ACRE OF CORN IN ONE YEAR TO BUY:

- A. A tractor
- B. An airplane
- C. Some work clothes
- D. A new car

Rank your choices:                                        
                                 1st   2nd   3rd   4th

Circle your score:       5       3       1       0

#### A. A TRACTOR

Tractors usually cost several thousands of dollars. At \$2.00 a bushel, several thousand bushels of corn would be needed to buy a tractor.

#### B. AN AIRPLANE

Though many farmers fly their own planes nowadays, especially in range areas of the West, the planes cost several thousands of dollars.

#### C. SOME WORK CLOTHES

If a farmer were able to get the national average yield of about 90 bushels of corn per acre and could sell the corn at \$2.00 a bushel, after paying expenses, he'd have enough cash to buy some work clothes.

#### D. A NEW CAR

A farmer would be able to buy a used car if his yields are high, the price of corn is good, and he wasn't too particular about the age or condition of the car he bought.

19. THE NAMES ONE SUCKER, GREEN RIVER, SOUTHERN MARYLAND AND PERIQUE REFER TO:

- A. A new rock group
- B. Sugar bushes
- C. Kinds of nuts
- D. Tobacco varieties

Rank your choices:                                              
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

A. A NEW ROCK GROUP

Rock music groups have more names than rocks, but up until now at least they haven't adopted the names one sucker, green river, southern Maryland and perique . . . have they?

B. SUGAR BUSHES

Groups of maple trees that produce maple syrup are, in some parts of the U.S., called sugar bushes. Our sugar comes mainly from sugarbeets and sugarcane.

C. KINDS OF NUTS

The U.S. produces nearly a billion pounds of nuts a year, counting almonds, filberts, walnuts, pecans and macadamias. But none of the three nuts are sold commercially as one sucker or green river.

D. TOBACCO VARIETIES

Most tobacco grown in the U.S. is either flue-cured or burley. Farmers grow one sucker and green river (largely for chewing), and perique (to enhance the flavor).

20. THE PEPPERMINT HARVEST IS  
STORED IN:

- A. Bins
- B. Bales
- C. Barrels
- D. Barns

Rank your choices:                                          
                                 1st    2nd    3rd    4th

Circle your score:        5        3        1        0

A. BINS

Corn and soybeans are the most notable crops stored in bins. Sometimes corn is shelled and sometimes it is stored in the ear. Soybeans are seldom stored in the pod.

B. BALES

Cotton is bundled into huge bales for shipment and storage. First, the cotton is ginned and fibers are separated from the seed. A cotton gin is not a drink.

C. BARRELS

About 1½ million pounds of spearmint oil, which is stored in barrels, sold at \$10.71 a pound in 1974. U.S. farmers produced about 3½ million pounds of peppermint oil (stored similarly) and sold it at about \$13.84 a pound.

D. BARNs

Much tobacco is stored in drying barns. A lot of hay is dried and then is stored in barns. If hay is not dried first, it will heat up—and might burn the barn, spontaneously.

## **CORRECT ANSWERS FACTS ABOUT FARM CROPS**

- |      |       |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. B  | 11. B | 16. C |
| 2. B | 7. A  | 12. C | 17. A |
| 3. D | 8. D  | 13. B | 18. C |
| 4. B | 9. C  | 14. A | 19. D |
| 5. D | 10. C | 15. A | 20. C |

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE EXHIBIT**

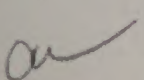
If you would like to take a similar quiz at the U.S. Department of Agriculture exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, the quiz will be there throughout 1978. The Museum, at 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, which houses a fabulous collection of educational exhibits, is open every day of the year except Christmas.

More than four million people visit the Museum each year, spending an average of 3½ hours each with the various exhibits.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture exhibit, which will be at the Museum permanently, is built around the theme, "Your Five Acres." It shows that the nation now has an average of five acres of farmland per person, down from eleven acres a number of years ago. The average will become even less than five acres as population grows. What that means to you is depicted graphically in the exhibit.

A fast-paced TV-type show on a huge panel called "You Bet Your Crop," in which a slick quizmaster interviews a farmer about his business, is one of the highlights of all the Museum exhibits.

You can also get an interesting booklet about the facts in the exhibit, entitled "The Secret of Affluence." Either ask for it at the Museum front office or write, Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.





## WANT OTHER PUBLICATIONS?

### QUIK-QUIZ BOOKLETS

This quiz on FACTS ABOUT FARM CROPS is one of several QUIK-QUIZ question-and-answer leaflets. Check any of the following which you may want free while they last (single copies only):

How to cook	_____
What food costs	_____
Good nutrition	_____
Foods for overseas	_____
Facts about farm crops	_____
Facts about farm animals	_____
Your best environment	_____
Facts about world hunger	_____
Business of farming	_____
School lunches and food stamps	_____

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

Want to know more about gardening, trees and shrubs? Single copies of the following leaflets are available free while supplies last:

Growing Vegetables in the Home Garden . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
The basics as well as specifics, including planting times and tips.

Strawberry Varieties in the U.S. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
Detailed characteristics, by variety.

Minigardens for Vegetables . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
Basics of planting specific vegetables in containers.

Trees and Shrubs of the United States. . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
A bibliography for identification of trees and shrubs, nationally and by state.

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